GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2663
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2002
INDIAN CONSULATE IN BONN
N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Indian Consulate in Bonn ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether representations have been received against this ; and

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) & (b) : Yes, sir. The reunification of Germany in October1989, the subsequent decision of the Deutsche Bundestag (German Parliament) in June 1991 to return the capital of the Federal Republic of Germany from Bonn to Berlin, followed by the actual transfer of the capital to Berlin in August 1999, necessitated the transfer of the Embassy of India in the Federal Republic of Germany from Bonn to Berlin in October 1999. Munich is the capital of the state of Bavaria which is the largest Federal State in Germany and is the fastest growing State economically. India had no consulate located in Southern Germanyand the new Consulate in Munich is the first one in a dynamic, hitech and economically significant part of Germany.

(c) A number of Indian Associations based in German State of North Rhine Westphalia (where Bonn is located) have submitted representations in favour of maintaining a consulate or an office of the Embassy of India in Bonn, or alternatively in some other city in the state of North Rhine Westphalia.

(d) The convenience of the NRI community living in North Rhine Westphalia (where Bonn is located)is being fully addressed by the planned reorganisation of Consular Jurisdictions of our Mission and Posts, namely Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich,located in the Federal Republic of Germany.